

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00

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R 091444Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 1253

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0393

E.O. 11652 : GDS

TAGS : PFOR, US, BA

SUBJECT : U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY

1. MY FIRST CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER SHAIKH MOHAMMAD TO PRESENT COPY OF CREDENTIALS WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL BUT DISCUSSION UNEXCEPTIONAL UNTIL HE RAISED SECRETARY'S SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS ON ARAB-ISRAELI ON DISENGAGEMENT.

2. WITH OBVIOUS EMOTION MOHAMMAD SAID RECENT U.S. PEACE EFFORTS HAVE "LIFTED A BARRIER" WHICH HAD FOR MANY YEARS INHIBITED FRANK AND CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN ARAB STATES AND U.S. ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. HE AGREED THAT ON LONG AND DIFFICULT ROAD AHEAD ALL ARAB STATES COULD CONTRIBUTE TO BRINGING ABOUT AND MAINTAINING ATMOSPHERE CONCLUSIVE TO PEACE. MOHAMMAD SAID PRESIDENT NIXON, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF LONG EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SEEMS TO HIM TO BE FIRST U.S. PRESIDENT TO UNDERSTAND FULLY SERIOUSNESS OF MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM AND IMPORTANCE TO U.S. INTERESTS OF SOLVING IT.

3. COMMENT: KEY TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT HARDLY LIES IN BAHRAIN'S FOREIGN MINISTRY, BUT MOHAMMAD IS INTELLIGENT AND GETS AROUND. IT WON'T HURT TO HAVE HIM SUPPORTING CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD SETTLEMENT. IN ANY EVENT HIS ELATION WAS WELCOME MUSIC TO ONE LONG ACCUSTOMED TO HEARING A SOUR NOTE EVERY TIME AN ARAB DISCUSSED U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY. I WAS RELIEVED TO FIND
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THIS UPBEAT MOOD IN A GENTLEMAN WITH WHOM I PLAN TO DISCUSS

NAVAL LOGISTICS AT SOME LENGTH IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
TWINAM

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Message Attributes

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